



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 01/07/2016 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2016-00010>, and on [FDsys.gov](http://FDsys.gov)

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974: Computer Matching Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice of Computer Match Program.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to conduct a computer matching program with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Data from the proposed match will be used to verify the unearned income of nonservice-connected veterans, and those veterans who are zero percent service-connected (noncompensable), whose eligibility for VA medical care is based on their inability to defray the cost of medical care. These veterans supply household income information that includes their spouses and dependents at the time of application for VA health care benefits.

**DATES: Effective Date:** The match will start no sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register (FR), or 40 days after copies of this notice and the agreement of the parties is submitted to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, whichever is later, and end not more than 18 months after the agreement is properly implemented by the parties. The involved agencies' Data Integrity Boards (DIB) may extend this match for 12 months provided the agencies certify to their DIBs, within three months of the ending date of

the original match, that the matching program will be conducted without change and that the matching program has been conducted in compliance with the original matching program.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); by mail or hand-delivery to the Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273-9026. Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 for an appointment. In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Corrie Kittles, Acting Director, VHA Chief Business Office, Member Services, Health Eligibility Center, (404) 848–5300 (this is not a toll free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has statutory authorization under 38 U.S.C. 5317, 38 U.S.C. 5106, 26 U.S.C. 6103(l)(7)(D)(viii) and 5 U.S.C. 552a to establish matching agreements and request and use income information from other agencies for purposes of verification of income for determining eligibility for benefits.

38 U.S.C. 1710(a)(2)(G), 1710(a)(3), and 1710(b) identify those veterans whose basic eligibility for medical care benefits is dependent upon their financial status. Eligibility for nonservice-connected and zero percent noncompensable service-connected veterans is determined based on the veteran's inability to defray the expenses for necessary care as defined in 38 U.S.C. 1722. This determination can affect their responsibility to participate in the cost of their care through copayments and their assignment to an enrollment priority group. The goal of this match is to obtain IRS unearned income information data needed for the income verification process. The VA records involved in the match are "Enrollment and Eligibility Records—VA" (147VA16). IRS will extract return information with respect to unearned income from the Information Return Master File (IRMF) Process File, Treas/IRS 22.061, through the Disclosure of Information to Federal, State and Local Agencies (DIFSLA) program. A copy of this notice has been sent to both Houses of Congress and OMB.

This matching agreement expires 18 months after its effective date. This match will not continue past the legislative authorized date to obtain this information.

**SIGNING AUTHORITY:**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Robert L. Nabors II, Chief of Staff, approved this document on December 16, 2015 for publication.

Dated: January 4, 2016

Kathleen M. Manwell,

Program Analyst

VA Privacy Service

Office of Privacy and Records Management

Department of Veterans Affairs

[FR Doc. 2016-10 Filed: 1/6/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 1/7/2016]